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THE SOUTH AFRICAN SPECIES OF AIZOACEAE.

V. *CORBICHONIA*.

by

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CORBICHONIA

Scop. Int. Nat. Hist. 204. 1777.

Axonotechium Fenzl Ann. Wien. Mus. 1: 354. 1836.

Orygia auct. plur. *non* Forsk. F. Aeg.—Arab. 103. 1775.

Prostrate glabrous perennial, woody at the base. Leaves alternate, without stipules. Flowers in lax terminal cymes. Perianth segments 5, free or almost so. Stamens numerous, the outer without anthers, flattened, united at the base in a cup, the inner with anthers, free or attached to the cup. Ovary superior, 5-chambered, with numerous ovules in each chamber. Stigmas 5, slender, spreading. Fruit loculicidally dehiscent. Seeds compressed, kidney-shaped, with a small fleshy aril at the top of the funicle.

The only species is *C. decumbens* (Forsk.) Exell
wide-spread in the drier parts of Africa, also in South-west Asia.

A distinctive genus both in habit and in floral structure. The flattened staminodes have been looked upon as petals and the genus associated with *Mesembryanthemum* (cf. Lindley Veg. King, ed. 2. 526. 1847) but it is usually regarded as belonging to the *Molluginaceae* (cf. Sonder Fl. Cap. 1: 136. 1860; Pax & Hoffman Eng. & Prantl Nat. Pflanzf. ed. 2. 16. c: 192. 1934; Friedrich Mitt. Bot. Munch. 12: 58. 1955).

The dehiscence of the fruit is along the midribs of the carpels. It only extends about half to two-thirds the length. The septa at the same time separate from the centre.

This monotypic genus has been named by almost all writers *Orygia* Forsk. Fl. Aeg.-Arab. 103. 1775, but, as pointed out by Exell (J. Bot. 73: 80. 1935), it diverges so much from the generic diagnosis that it cannot be retained in it. Forskal (l.c.) described two species under *Orygia* of which the first agrees with his diagnosis, but the second, this one, is so different that its inclusion is not possible.

C. decumbens (Forsk.) Exell J. Bot. 73: 80. 1935.

Orygia decumbens Forsk. Fl. Aeg.-Arab. 103. 1775.

O. mucronata Klotsch in Peters Reise Mossamb. Bot. 140. t.25. 1861.

Portulaca decumbens Vahl Symb. Bot. 1: 83. 1790.

Telinum decumbens Willd. Sp. Pl. 2: 864. 1800.

Glinus trianthemoides Hayne in Roth Nov. Sp. Pl. 231. 1821.

Telephium laxiflorum DC. Prodr. 3: 366. 1828.

Axonotrichum trianthemoides Fenzl Ann. Wien. Mus. 1: 355. 1836.

Glabrous, more or less glaucous. Stems woody at the base, up to 45 cm. long with ascending branches, the younger pale-coloured. Leaves alternate, slightly fleshy, obovate or the lower almost orbicular, the upper broadly elliptical, 1.5—4 cm. long, 0.6—2.5 cm. wide, the basal up to 6 cm. long and 3 cm. wide, entire, flat, acute or mucronate sometimes shortly apiculate, at the base narrowed to a petiole 2—5 mm. long. Inflorescences terminal on branches, forking, with 1 or 2 pseudoracemose branches 2—5 cm. long. Pedicels 0.4—0.8 cm. long. Bracts narrow boat-shaped, acute, about 3 mm. long. Perianth segments green outside, often red or purple inside, 4—6 mm. long, 2.5—3.5 mm. wide, acute or mucronate, the inner narrower than the outer. Stamens erect, the staminodes scarious, as long as or shorter than the fertile stamens: anthers buff-coloured. Ovary rounded, stigmas long. Fruit almost spherical, about as long as the perianth. Seeds brown, with a white aril.

Dry sandy or rocky places in the warmer parts. Most frequent in river beds.

The large basal leaves wither away at or before flowering time.

S.W. AFRICA. Gt. Karasberg *Pearson* 8562 (BM.K): Bothavos *Silk* 245 (K): Springbank *Rogers* 15367 (K): Aub Riv. *Pearson* 3750, 3755 (K): Keetmanshoop *Acocks* 18104 (K).

CAPE. HAY Asbestos Mts. *Burchell* 2054 (K): Mazelfontein *Anderson* (K): Orange Riv. *Bryant* 783 (K): KIMBERLEY Modder Riv. Drift *Burchell* 1755 (K): Dutoitspan *Barker* (K): Windsorton *Marloth* 4761 (K): HOPETOWN Hopetown *Shaw* (Z): ALBERT Rhenosterkop *Burke* (K): GRAAF REINET Graaf Reinet *Bolus* 16181 (BM): *MacOwan* 426 (K): STUTTERHEIM Bolo *Acocks* 9085 (K): PONDOLAND *Bachmann* 492 (Z).

NATAL. UMZIMKULU Umzimkulu *Jacottet* (Z): UMZINTO Umkomaas *Dumisa Rudatis* 1933 (G): Skottberg *Wheeler* (Z): ESTCOURT Mooi Riv. *Wood* 881 (K), 4491 (K), 5391 (BM): ZULULAND *Gerrard* 1489 (BM.K).

TRANSVAAL. MARICO Rooiplatz *Leendertz* 782 (K): Zeerust *Thode* A1410 (K) s.l. *Louw* 1885 (K): PRETORIA Elands Riv. *Rehmann* 4901 (Z), 4951 (K.Z.): WATERBERG Springbok Flats *Galpin* M. 733 (K): *Pole Evans* 3963 (K): PIETERSBURG Shilohvane *Junod* 1338 (Z): ZOUTPANSBERG Zoutpansberg *Rogers* 21534 (K): Brak Riv. *Schlechter* 4622 (BM.G.K.Z): Messina *Rogers* 19255 (G): 19319 (Z), 21534 (Z): Dongola *Codd & Dyer* 3841 (K): Punda Maria *Codd* 5994 (K): LYDENBURG Spitzkop *Boss* (K): NELSPRUIT Komati Poort *Moss & Rogers* 679 (BM): *Pole Evans* H16911 (K): *Rogers* 20342 (G): Skukuza *Codd & de Winter* 5084 (K): BARBERTON Barberton *Rogers* 20288 (G.K.Z): Hectorspruit *Thorncroft* 1128 (BM.K): Louw's Creek *Hutchinson* 2514 (K): Piggs Peak *Thorncroft* 2255 (K).

Without locality:—*Drege* (K), *Drege* (*Senebiera aizoides*) (BM.G.K): *Sanderson* (K): *Zeyher* 993 (BM).